

Appendix E

Facilities

To train and perform at maximum levels, bands must have training facilities that meet standards in the Corps of Engineers DG 1110-13-119. Facilities have a direct impact on the quality of mission accomplishment. Therefore, every effort should be made at the local level to ensure adequate facilities are available to the band. To that end, the Design Guide (DG) addresses both new construction and renovation of old facilities to allow numerous, innovative means for providing adequate facilities. Furthermore, the facility should present a distinctive, attractive, and identifiable image for the band, the unit, and the post.

LOCATION OF THE BAND FACILITY

E-1. The band command and support element areas must be near the training area. They should be organized to permit maximum and efficient use. Because bands perform in ceremonies, the band facility should be near the post ceremonial parade field. The band facility site should be in a quiet area away from noisy areas such as truck routes and flight paths. Whenever possible, the band facility should be located near the band troop living area. The site of the band facility should be large enough to accommodate several separate space requirements.

- Band rehearsal building(s)
- Band administrative area to include office space
- Band supply
- Marching band practice area
- Loading dock with ramp
- Parking areas for all band members and visitors
- Bus and truck load/unloading area

TRAINING FACILITIES

E-2. All indoor rehearsal facilities will be acoustically treated to reduce unwanted sounds between rooms, reduce outside noises, lower the decibel level, and keep the clarity of sound needed in rehearsals. All indoor training facilities must be well-lighted and ventilated. Heat and air conditioning helps avoid damage to musical instruments and equipment. Musical instruments are sensitive to temperature/humidity changes. Extreme temperature/humidity can damage instruments beyond repair. Training facilities must include room for simultaneous rehearsals in separate areas.

- Concert Band Training Area
- Large Group Training Area
- Small Group Training Area
- Marching Band Training Area
- Individual Training Area

CONCERT BAND TRAINING AREA

E-3. The concert band training area is a room large enough to seat the entire band in concert band formation with all concert percussion equipment in place. The room must meet acoustic and ear safety requirements, have a high ceiling, and be sound-proofed. A spacious room lets the band's sound blend. This lets each soldier hear and blend his sound with that of others, making training rehearsals more effective and performances more precise. Also, a spacious soundproofed room will prevent sound levels from rising high enough to cause permanent ear damage. Risers used to seat sections of the band at different heights may assist in technical training. Other equipment in the room includes chairs and music stands for the band, a conductor's stand, a podium, a piano, and a tuning aid/device.

LARGE GROUP TRAINING AREA

E-4. The large group training area is a room large enough to seat an entire stage band in stage band formation with all rhythm and percussion equipment in place. The room must have a high ceiling and be soundproofed in order to meet acoustic and ear safety requirements. A spacious room lets the band's sound blend and soundproofing will prevent the decibel level of the stage band from rising high enough to cause permanent ear damage.

SMALL GROUP TRAINING AREA

E-5. The small group training area is a room large enough to hold 10 to 15 band members. Small performing groups and mixed ensembles train here. The room must have a high ceiling and be sound-proofed in order to meet acoustic and ear safety requirements. A spacious room lets the small group's sound blend and soundproofing will prevent the decibel level of the small group from rising high enough to cause permanent ear damage.

MARCHING BAND TRAINING AREA

E-6. The marching band training area must be an outdoor area easily accessible to the band facility. It must be a flat field of sufficient size to accommodate marching and drill movements. An area with an all-weather surface will decrease the effect of climatic conditions on the training of the marching band. There should be no closely spaced buildings near the marching band rehearsal area. Buildings that are close together (especially those with parallel walls) create an echo effect. This makes it difficult for the musicians to hear. The field must be readily available for the band's use so that conflicts with other units will be avoided and training flexibility can be maintained.

INDIVIDUAL TRAINING AREAS

E-7. Four large and eight small individual training rooms should be available. The large training rooms should hold up to four band members and be used for group or sectional rehearsals. The small training rooms should hold up to two soldiers and be used for duet or individual practice. One practice room should be equipped with a piano.

ADMINISTRATIVE FACILITIES

E-8. The administrative facilities in a band hall must include a Recording Room, a Supply and Storage Room, an Instrument Repair Area, a Music Library, Office Space, and a Charge of Quarters Area.

RECORDING ROOM

E-9. The recording room must be located next to the concert band training area. The room should be arranged to allow the recording technician and conductor to see each other at all times. Both the full band and large group rehearsal rooms should have microphone outlets and playback speakers. All sound reinforcement and reproduction equipment must be of high quality. High quality equipment helps train soldiers and permits the band to make professional quality recordings to release to recruiters and civil affairs activities.

SUPPLY AND STORAGE ROOM

E-10. The supply and storage areas are designed for high security. All entrances should have metal doors with locks. The supply area should be well-lighted and easily accessible from all parts of the band facility. At least two work stations should be provided. The storage area must be large enough to move equipment easily and store extra supplies, expendable music supplies, non-issued instruments, uniforms, and equipment. The supply and storage areas should be heated and air conditioned to prevent equipment damage.

ORGANIZATIONAL MAINTENANCE AREA

E-11. The purpose of this area is to repair and maintain the band's TOE equipment, including musical instruments. The organizational maintenance area should be well ventilated and must be designed to be secured so that equipment and parts left in the work area can be secured.

MUSIC LIBRARY

E-12. The music library must be accessible to all rehearsal areas. There must be sufficient music, reference books, method books, and various recordings for band training and performance functions. File cabinets and/or shelves of suitable size should be available for storage. Racks for sorting music should be available. Music publisher's catalogs and arranging and copying materials should also be available.

OFFICE SPACE

E-13. The administrative facilities of a band will include office space for the band commander, band sergeant major/first sergeant, administration, and operations/training. The offices for the band commander and band sergeant major/first sergeant are separate and capable of being closed off for privacy and meetings. In addition, the unit Retention NCO will need a separate office that can be closed-off for privacy. Administration and operations/training sections will be in a larger area. This area should be partitioned for privacy. All offices should be well-lighted, ventilated, and attractive. Offices must be placed away from the training areas of the band hall, due to the high decibel levels produced by musical training.

CHARGE OF QUARTERS AREA

E-14. The charge of quarters (CQ) is responsible for the security of the entire band facility. Because of this, the CQ area must be located to give that individual direct view of the main entrance, as well as an overview of the supply/storage area and rehearsal facilities.